

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-04 USIA-06 SS-15

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TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 173558

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, OX, US, UR

SUBJECT: PUBLIC STATEMENT ON US INDIAN OCEAN POLICY

REF: COLOMBO 2156

1. REFTEL HIGHLIGHTS WELL THE PROBLEMS WE FACE WITH THIS
SUBJECT AT THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE (NAC). AT
PRESENT TIME DECISIONS ARE PENDING WHICH WILL ESTABLISH A
CONTEXT FOR A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON INDIAN OCEAN MATTERS,
INCLUDING SOVIET PRESENCE. THE IDEA OF A HIGH LEVEL
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STATEMENT ON THESE ISSUES, THEREFORE, IS UNDER REVIEW. AS

YOU POINT OUT THE TIMING OF THE NAC IS A KEY FACTOR IN THE
IMPACT A STATEMENT CAN GENERATE AND WILL BE CAREFULLY CON-
SIDERED.

2. IN THE MEANTIME THE PUBLIC RECORD (MOSTLY CONGRESSIONAL
TESTIMONY) REMAINS TO BE DRAWN UPON AND HAS RECEIVED CON-
SIDERABLE PUBLIC ATTENTION. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE BEEN
MAKING OUR CASE CLEARLY TO CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS ON A PRI-
VATE BASIS. IN DEALING WITH THE SOMALIA QUESTION, YOU ARE
ENCOURAGED TO DRAW UPON CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY WHICH SETS
FORTH IN DETAIL PRACTICALLY ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON
SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN SOMALIA. IN ADDITION, THE APRIL 15
STATEMENT TO CONGRESS ON INDIAN OCEAN ARMS CONTROL (STATE

98319)CONTAINS USEFUL INFORMATION, INCLUDING AN AFFIRMA-
TION OF OUR INTENTION TO PRACTICE RESTRAINT IN OUR
INDIAN OCEAN ACTIVITIES. KISSINGER

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